

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01969 120729 Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/073 W

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R 111732 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5523

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USEC BRUSSELS 604

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB SSO SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO) HOLDS

NATIONAL CONGRESS

SUMMARY: THREE- DAY SSO NATIONAL CONGRESS OPENED TODAY BUT
PROMISES TO BE LACKING IN ITEMS OF MAJOR INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

1. FIFTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION
(SSO) COMMENCED TODAY IN MADRID.

2. THREE- DAY CONGRESS IS BEING ATTENDED BY 600 SSO DELEGATES
FROM THROUGHOUT SPAIN. IN ADDITION A NUMBER OF FOREIGN
OBSERVERS, NEARLY ALL DIPLOMATS FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN AND
LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSIES AND INCLUDING EMBASSY LABOR
OFFICER, ARE ALSO ATTENDING CONGRESS.

3. LENGTHY INAUGURAL SESSION INCLUDED WELCOMING SPEECH BY
SYNDICAL MINISTER GARCIA RAMAL, REPORT BY SECRETARY GENERAL
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MARTIN VILLA ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SSO DURING FIVE- YEAR PERIOD SINCE LAST PREVIOUS SSO CONGRESS WAS HELD IN 1968, AND ARTICLE BY ARTICLE APPROVAL BY ASSEMBLED DELEGATES OF NEW REGULATIONS FOR THIS AND FUTURE CONGRESSES. LATTER PRECIPITATED SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR BY DELEGATES PROPOSING AMENDMENTS AND MINOR MODIFICATIONS. LIVELIEST MOMENT OF SESSION CAME WHEN INDEPENDENT- MINDED ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL SSO WORKERS COUNCIL IN NAVARRE FORMALLY QUESTIONED RIGHT OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS (INCLUDING THE MINISTER, SECRETARY GENERAL, AND OTHER TOP SSO OFFICIALS WHO OWE THEIR POSITIONS TO GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT RATHER THAN TO ELECTION) TO ATTEND CONGRESS AS DELEGATES. THIS PROPOSAL PRECIPITATED A MINOR RUCKUS AND A CHORUS OF BOOS. WHEN ORDER WAS RESTORED AND A VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THIS MOTION, ONLY FOUR DELEGATES VOTED IN FAVOR, THREE ABSTAINED, WHILE SOME 590 VOTED TO KEEP THE APPOINTED OFFICIALS AS CONGRESS DELEGATES.

4. COMMENT: THE CONGRESS IS LACKING IN MAJOR ITEMS OF INTEREST AND PROMISES TO BE FAIRLY ROUTINE, EXCEPT FOR SUCH EXCITEMENT AS THE NAVARRE DELEGATE THIS MORNING AND OTHER OF THE SMALL HANDFUL OF INDEPENDENT- MINDED DELEGATES CAN CREATE. THE CONGRESS' MAIN VALUE WILL BE TO PROVIDE A FORM OF OVERALL ENDORSEMENT FOR THE 1971 SYNDICAL LAW AND TO APPROVE GUIDELINES PREPARED BY THE CURRENT SSO LEADERSHIP FOR THE SSO TO FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE (NO SUBSTANTIAL DEPARTURES FROM CURRENT POLICIES, HOWEVER, ARE EXPECTED).

5. MEANWHILE ALL CLANDESTINE LABOR OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE ATTACKED THE HOLDING OF THE SSO CONGRESS AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COUNTER THE GOVERNMENT' S EXTENSIVE PROPAGANDA BY ATTACKING BOTH SPANISH SYNDICAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AS WELL AS BY ATTEMPTING TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE WORKER DEATH AT THE HANDS OF POLICE IN LAST WEEK' S WILDCAT CONSTRUCTION STRIKE OUTSIDE BARCELONA. RIVERO

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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